

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 16, and 19 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A photovoltaic power generating apparatus comprising:  
  
a single solar cell element formed on a substrate; and  
  
a plurality of power conversion devices individually connected to the solar cell element for converting an output of the solar cell element,  
  
wherein the plurality of power conversion devices is provided on the solar cell element at predetermined intervals.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of power conversion devices are DC-DC converters for boosting a DC voltage output from the solar cell element.

3. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of power conversion devices are inverters.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a wiring member that electrically connects the solar cell element and a power conversion device of said plurality of power conversion devices has an exposed section at least at a part of a live part.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the solar cell element comprises a photoelectric conversion layer, a current collection electrode disposed on a light-receiving side of the photoelectric conversion layer, a surface wiring member and a transparent thin film resin layer, and at least a part of the current collection electrode or the surface wiring member has an exposed section which is not covered with the transparent thin film resin layer.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a photoelectric conversion layer of the solar cell element comprises thin film silicon.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is conductive and a substrate side of a photoelectric conversion layer of the solar cell element constitutes a positive electrode.

8. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the substrate is conductive and an output of one of the DC-DC converters and one of outputs of the solar cell element are electrically connected to the substrate.

9. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein an output of one of the DC-DC converters and one of outputs of the solar cell element are on a low voltage side.

10. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an output of one of the DC-DC converters and one of outputs of the solar cell element are on a high voltage side.

11. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the solar cell element has portions where no power generation section is formed on two peripheral sides thereof.

12. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the solar cell element is fixed to a support through one of the portions where no power generation section is formed.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the solar cell element or the photovoltaic power generating apparatus itself is sealed with a resin.

14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the solar cell element is a minimum power generation unit having a function as a solar cell.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a plurality of current collection electrodes for individually collecting power of the solar cell element, wherein each of the plurality of current collection electrodes is connected to one of the plurality of power conversion devices such that power individually collected by the plurality of current collection electrodes is converted individually.

16. (Currently Amended) A photovoltaic power generating system comprising:

a photovoltaic power generating apparatus comprising a single solar cell element formed on a substrate and a plurality of DC-DC converters individually connected to the solar cell element for converting a DC output of the solar cell element; and

an inverter for converting outputs of the plurality of DC-DC converters to AC power and supplying the AC power to a load or interconnecting the AC power to a commercial power system,

wherein the plurality of DC-DC converters is provided on the solar cell element at predetermined intervals.

17. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 16, wherein the inverter has an insulating transformer, and wherein a wiring member connecting the inverter and one of the plurality of DC-DC converters is grounded.

18. (Withdrawn) A photovoltaic power generating system comprising the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of power conversion devices are a plurality of inverters for converting outputs of the solar cell element to AC power, and wherein the plurality of inverters supply output power to a load or interconnect the output power with a commercial power system.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a photovoltaic power generating apparatus comprising the steps of:

forming a solar cell element on a substrate through a semiconductor producing step; and connecting a plurality of power conversion devices to predetermined portions of the solar cell element,

wherein the plurality of power conversion devices is provided on the solar cell element at predetermined intervals.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, comprising a step of forming a photoelectric conversion layer, a current collection electrode and a surface wiring member on the substrate successively to form the solar cell element and a step of connecting the plurality of power conversion devices to predetermined portions of the solar cell element successively.